

# Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

# ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to Minneapolis City Council  
Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee  
July 8, 2013



Minneapolis  
Tree Advisory  
Commission

# Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

Created in March 2004

by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



## MISSION:

To enhance the  
Minneapolis urban forest  
and improve its  
long-term health.



# Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

## members

- Scott Vreeland, MPRB
- Ralph Sievert, MPRB
- Philip Potyondy, MPRB
- Kit Richardson, developer
- Jeff Gillman, U of MN
- Lorrie Stromme, MnSTAC
- Karen Zumach, Tree Trust
- Robin Garwood,  
City Council designee
- John Slack,  
Mayor's designee
- Don Willeke, citizen
- Peggy Booth, citizen
- Gay Noble, citizen
- Jeanne LaBore, citizen
- Clyde Kane, Mpls Public Schools
- Lois Eberhart, Mpls Public Works
- Steve Collin, Mpls Public Works

# Report Topics

- Emerald Ash Borer
- Replanting Diversity
- Trees Need Water
- RECOMMENDATIONS





# EMERALD ASH BORER

TIME  
TO ACT

NOW





# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

Emerald Ash Borer  
has already spread  
across the city

Soon ...  
it will spread  
**EXPONENTIALLY**

- ALL ash are at risk
- ALL infested trees will die

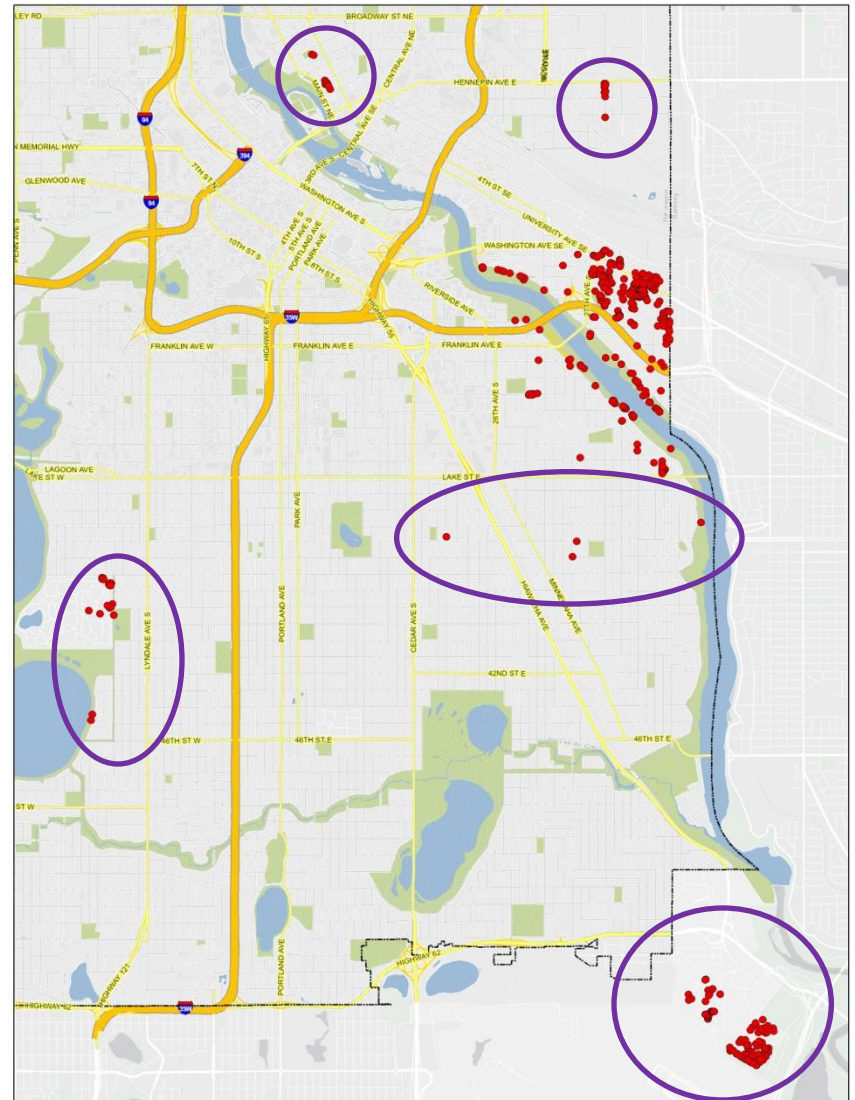




# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

Mn Dept of Ag.  
EAB diagnosed or  
highly suspect  
ash removals in  
Minneapolis

EAB Related Ash Removals 2013





# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

Ash are major part  
of Minneapolis

- ~38,000 public ash
- ~175,000 ash in yards

We'll lose all their  
benefits ... leading to:

- Worse water quality
- Impacts on human health



# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

For example,  
in Westland,  
Michigan ...

- As EAB arrived in their area they decided to remove all 3000 ash trees
- Due to the loss of shade etc...
- 33% increase in water consumption(Per DPW Supt. Tom Wilson)
- In turn the water authority passed a 10% surcharge on the residents for the increase in water consumption.



# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

According to a study in *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*  
using 1990-2007 data for counties in 15 midwestern states

### Deaths increased in counties with EAB

- 15,080 additional cardiovascular-related deaths
- 6,113 additional deaths related to lower respiratory disease

Toledo BEFORE

Toledo AFTER

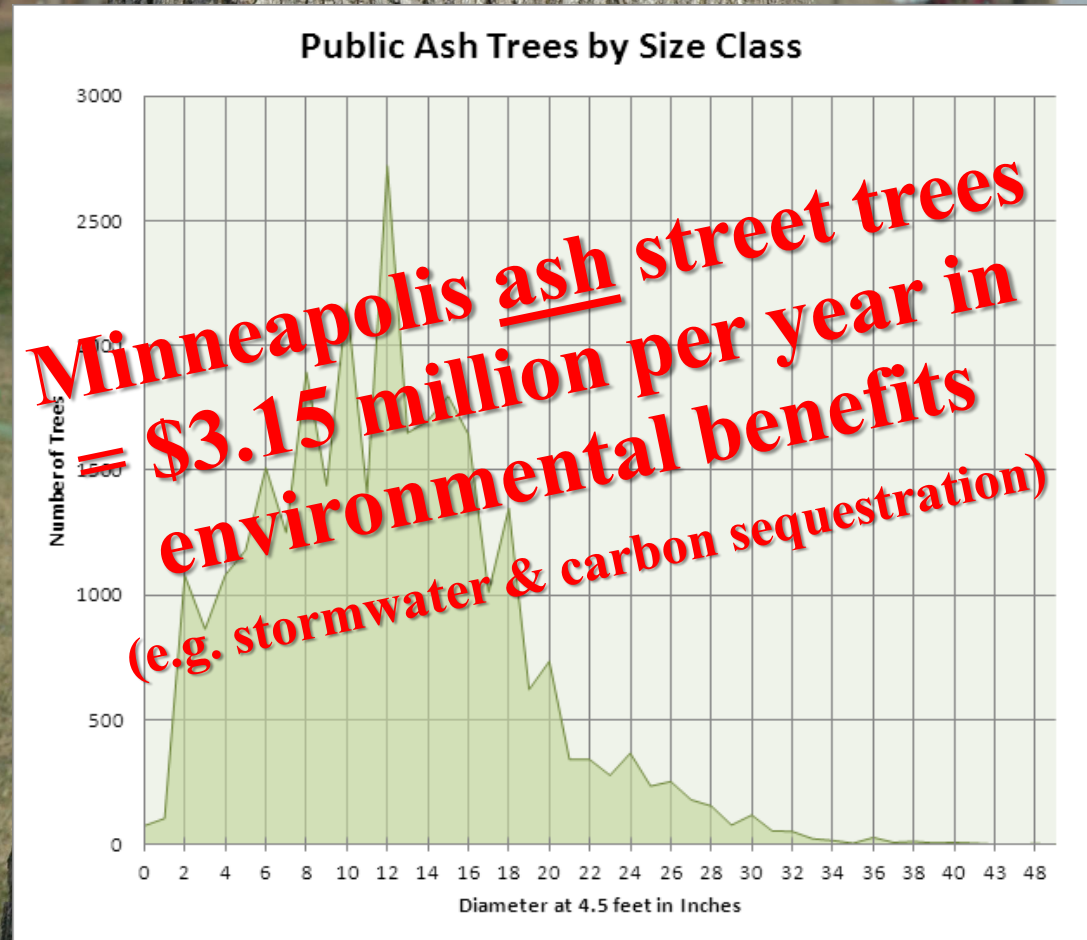


# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

We're losing big trees & their big benefits.

Our typical street tree ash is 12-14" in diameter & about 40 feet tall.

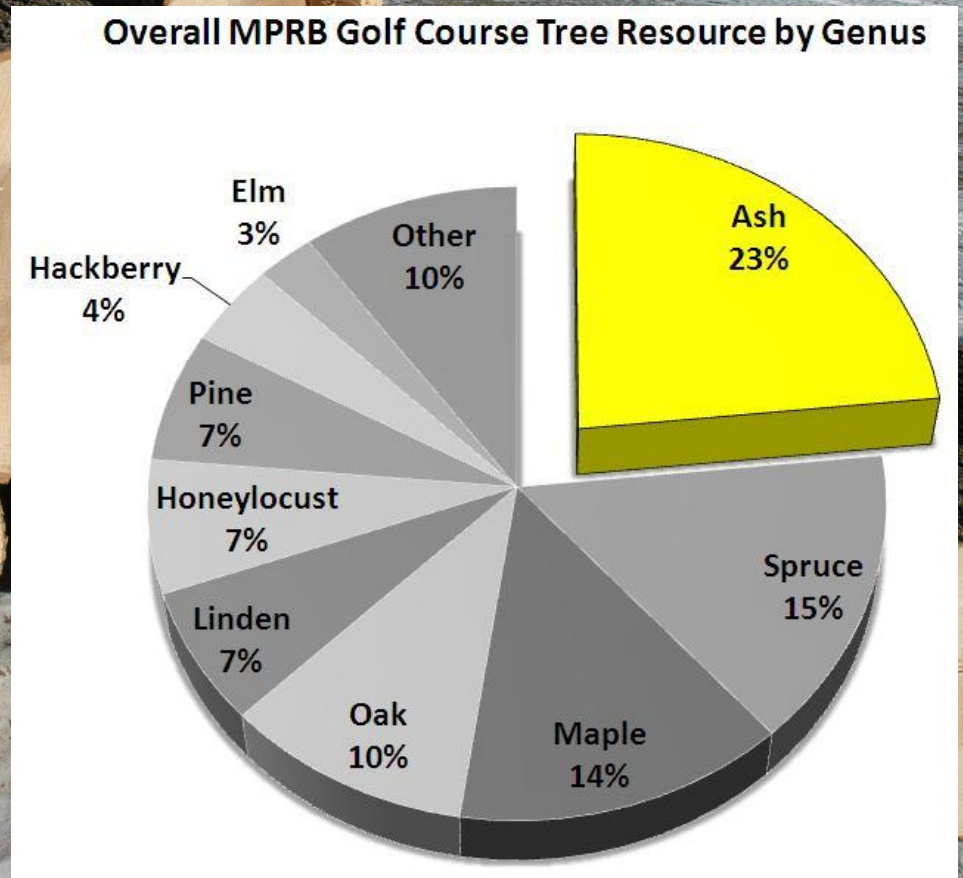




# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

Almost 1/4<sup>th</sup> of  
our golf course  
trees are going!





# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

- EAB is NOT controllable like Dutch elm disease
- Unlike our elms, ALL ash are doomed





# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

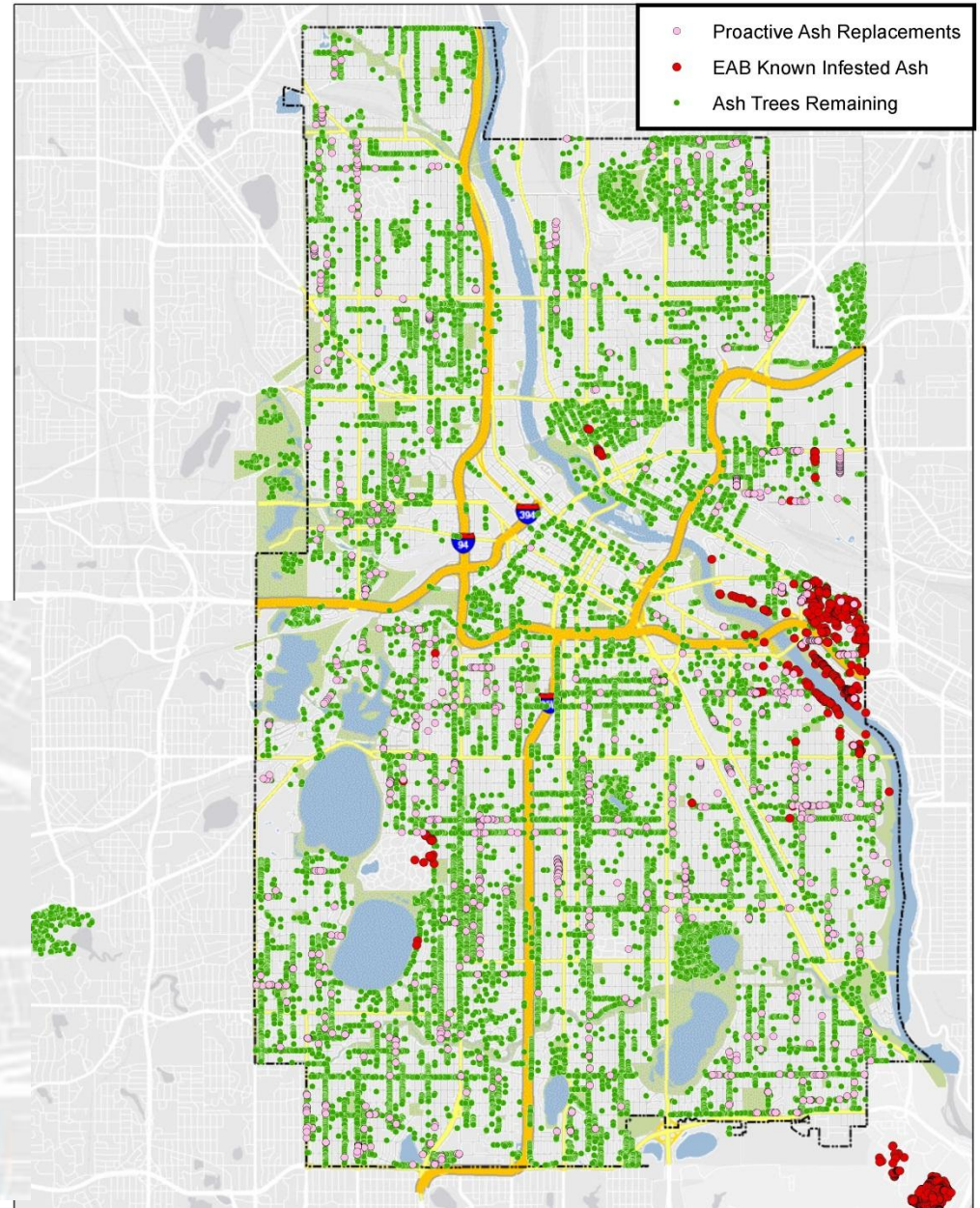
**Dead ash are hazards!**  
**They fall down sooner ...**  
**taking powerlines as they fall**





# Minneapolis Public Ash At-a-Glance

## EAB Related Ash Canopy Replacement as of 2013





# The Unfortunate Reality of EAB

## TREEmendous impacts

EAB costs BIG \$s

- Removal & disposal
- Liability
- Homeowner relations

What actions will ... ?

- Reduce annual catastrophic costs AND
- Optimize \$ benefits of tree canopy over the long term





# EAB Management Options

1. Do nothing
2. Pre-emptive removal of ash:
  - a) Remove ash during road projects
  - b) Take out defective ash (e.g. under power lines)
  - c) Targeted reduction of % ash per block
3. Treatment of high-value trees
4. Tree replanting with diverse species
5. Selective combination of #2-4 above



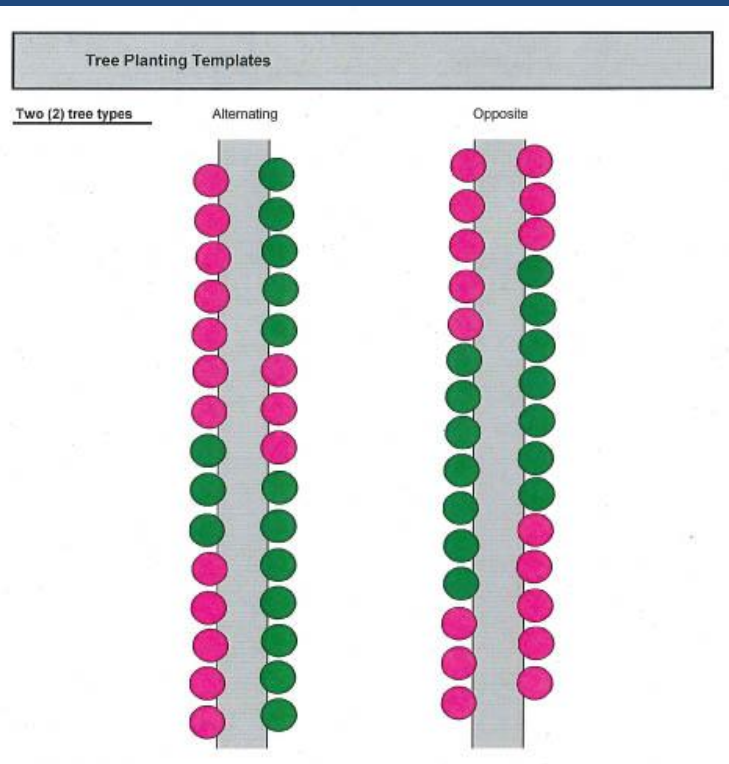
A young girl with dark skin and braided hair adorned with white beads is shown in a park-like setting. She is wearing a brown Girl Scouts vest over a dark blue t-shirt and denim shorts. The vest features several patches, including the Girl Scouts of America logo and a 'Girl Scout' patch. She is leaning forward, holding a grey plastic container that she is tipping to dump brown mulch around the base of a newly planted sapling. The background is filled with lush green trees under a clear blue sky. The text 'REPLANTING DIVERSITY' is overlaid in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the lower half of the image.

# REPLANTING DIVERSITY



# Planting Diverse Species

We're getting better ...





# Planting Diverse Species

## City Trees Program is commended

- 10 species including large-canopy & fruit trees
- Targeted 1<sup>st</sup> to underserved neighborhoods



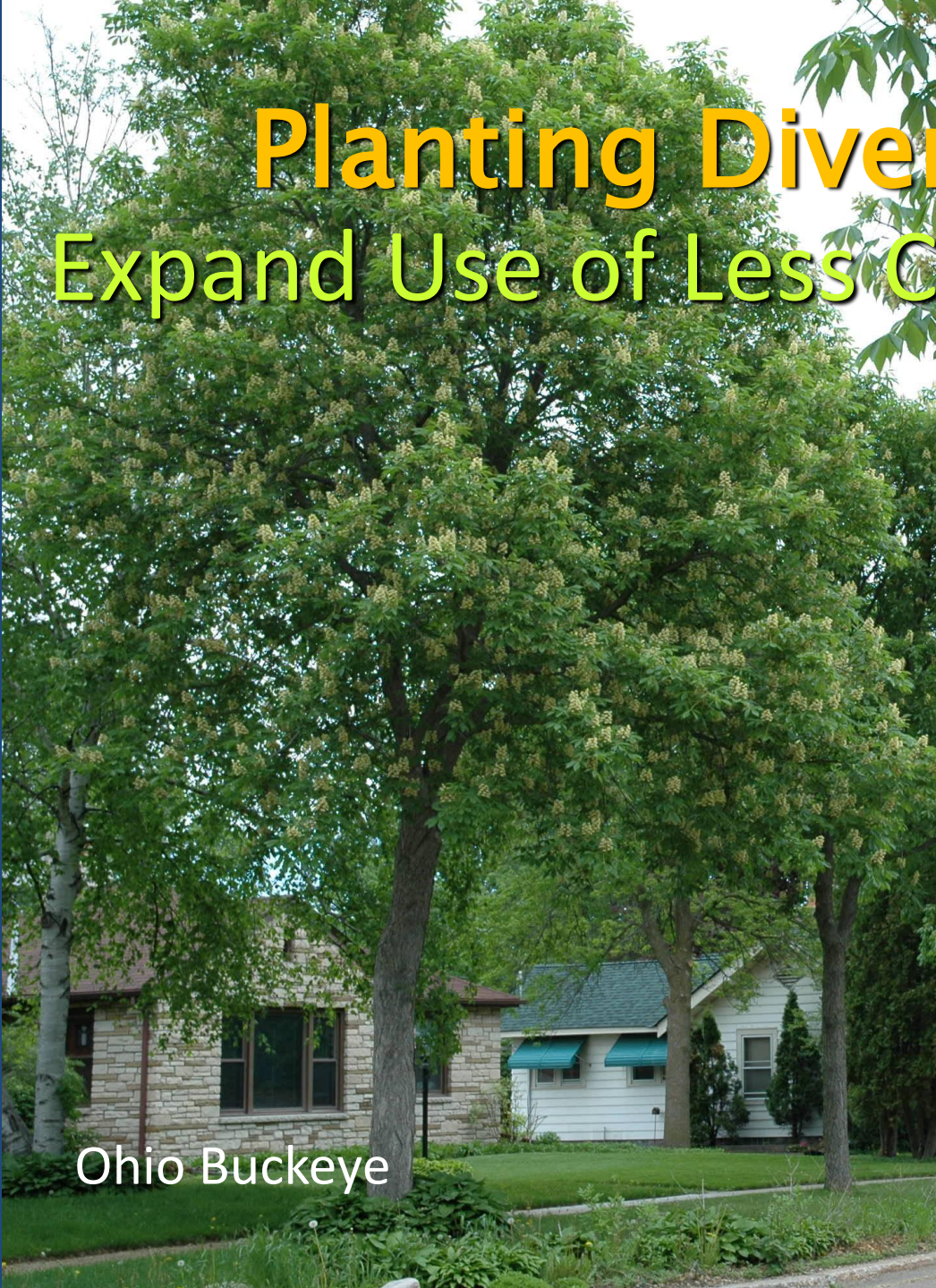


# Planting Diverse Species Minneapolis Arbor Day ROCKS!

- 210 trees & 12 fruiting shrubs planted at East Phillips Park
- Including 40 species & 53 distinct cultivars



# Planting Diverse Expand Use of Less Common Species



Ohio Buckeye



River Birch



# Planting Diverse Species

## Learn from Other Places





# Planting Diverse Species

## Promote Large Shade Trees



Hackberry



Bicolor Oak



TREES NEED  
WATER





# Is the Drought Gone?

**It will always come back!**





# Trees Need Water

Trees are public investment!

Newly planted trees  
REQUIRE regular  
watering





# Trees Need Water



With *Elmer says*  
gator tag with  
instructions



# Trees Need Water

**Public infrastructure  
implemented to  
infiltrate more  
water to trees**

**Such as  
boulevard  
swales shaped  
to catch water**





# RECOMMENDATIONS





# Recommendations

## Emerald Ash Borer– Act NOW!

Accelerate strategic removal & replacement of 5000 public ash this year:

- during road projects
- under power lines
- up to 20% ash per block throughout city
- target smaller ash for immediate removal & replacement

Conduct cost-benefit analysis for chemical treatment of highest-value trees

Increase public awareness & engagement



# Recommendations

## Plant More Diverse Trees

Sustain the City's tree canopy cover through increased tree care & planting large-canopy trees

Increase species diversity – try more species

Extend partnership with UM to test new varieties

Replant at least 5000 public trees per year  
– we really need 20,000/year to keep up

Seek outside funding for more tree planting

Continue expanding diversity in City Trees Program



# Recommendations

## Water Our Trees Campaign

Assure regular watering of all young trees

Make best practices our standard practices ...  
direct stormwater to trees, use mulch ...

Be prepared to quickly implement drought  
response watering plan

Promote watering when it's needed...  
via multimedia: tweets, Youtube, drought danger signs ...



# Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

# THANK YOU

## Any questions?



Minneapolis  
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